



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018 - 2019**

**COUNCIL**

**28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL, APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To advise Members of the outcome of the review of the Political Balance of the Council following the reduction in membership of the Plaid Cymru and Conservative political groups, the consequential effect on the appointment of Scrutiny Committee Chairs and to review the allocation of Notices of Motion.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be adopted;
- 2.2 That the Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees being referred to Council;
- 2.3 To note that Members of the Cabinet are not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Committees;
- 2.4 To note that at least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions;
- 2.5 To determine which Scrutiny Committee Chairs are to be allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group;

2.6 To seek nominations from the appropriate political groups for the appointment of Chairs to the following Scrutiny Committees:

- Overview and Scrutiny;
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee;
- Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee; and
- Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

2.7 To appoint the Vice-Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees; and

2.8 To seek Council's instruction as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018 – 2019 is to be amended.

### **3. POLITICAL BALANCE**

3.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 makes provisions for securing the political balance on certain relevant authorities, committees and bodies.

3.2 I have received notification of the reduction in membership of the Plaid Cymru and Conservative political groups with the consequential effect that Councillors Will Jones, Kate Libby Jones and Mike Diamond are now unallocated Members. This necessitates a review of the political balance of the Council.

3.3 Following the review of the political balance of the Council I would inform Members that the appointment of the available seats is as set out in Tables A, B and C of the Appendix to this report.

3.4 Appointments to the Committees will be made following notification given to me by each political group as to their nominations for appointments to the respective Committees. It has been previous practice for power to be delegated to the Proper Officer to accept and make the appointments notified to me by the political groups. However, in the case of subsequent requests for amendments to the membership of Committees they should be the subject of a report to full Council.

3.5 Following the reduction in the membership of the Plaid Cymru and Conservative political groups I can advise Members that the resultant changes to the composition of the Council's politically balanced committees mean the Labour group gains an additional seat on the Appeals Committee and the Conservative group loses its seat on that Committee. In relation to each of the committees outlined in Table C of

the Appendix the Conservative Group loses its seat and the Labour Group gains a seat.

3.6 Members are requested to note that:

- A Member of the Cabinet may not be a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of the Scrutiny Committees
- At least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions.

#### **4. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

4.1 The appointment of the persons to Chair the Council's Scrutiny Committees must comply with the requirements set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure').

4.2 Members will note from Section 3 of this report that due to the reduction in membership of the Conservative Group they no longer have a seat on the Council's Scrutiny Committees. In light of this and that there are two or more political groups with multiple Scrutiny Committees, the application of the procedures set out in Section 70 of the Measure results in the allocation set out below:

Labour Group – 3  
Plaid Cymru Group – 2  
Alliance Group – 0  
Conservative Group – 0

4.3 As a result of the changes the Alliance Group loses its entitlement to the Scrutiny Chair position it previously had and the Plaid Cymru group gains an additional Scrutiny Chair position.

4.4 Council must therefore determine which of the following Scrutiny Committees are to be chaired by the Labour and Plaid Cymru groups:

- Overview and Scrutiny;
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee;
- Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee; and
- Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

4.5 Nominations can then be received from appropriate Group Officers to fill those Scrutiny Chair posts.

4.6 The Council will also need to appoint the Vice-Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees.

**5. ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

- 5.1 At the Council's AGM in May, and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.2(a), Council allocated the 20 Notices of Motion for Municipal Year 2018 - 2019 as follows:

Labour – 10  
Plaid Cymru - 5  
Conservatives – 2  
Alliance - 2  
Unallocated Member - 1

- 5.2 In light of the change to political balance Members' instructions are now sought as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018 – 2019 is to be amended.

**APPENDIX**

**POLITICAL BALANCE 2018-19 (as at 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018)**

**TABLE A**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Plaid Cymru</i>	<i>Alliance</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Unallocated</i>
<b>Members</b>	75	47	17	5	2	4
<b>Political Balance</b>						
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Available Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	
Planning & Development	11	7	3	1	0	
Licensing	11	7	3	1	0	
Constitution	8	5	2	1	0	
Appointments	5	4	1	0	0	
Pensions	5	3	1	0	1	
Appeals	5	4	1	0	0	
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	

**TABLE B**

**TABLE TO CALCULATE POLITICAL BALANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES**

<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Plaid</b>	<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
3	2	1	0	0
4	3	1	0	0
5	3	1	1	0
6	4	2	0	0
7	5	2	0	0
8	5	2	1	0
9	6	2	1	0
10	7	2	1	0
11	7	3	1	0
12	8	3	1	0
13	8	3	1	1
14	9	3	1	1
15	10	4	1	0
16	10	4	1	1
17	11	4	1	1

18	12	4	1	1
19	12	5	1	1
20	13	5	1	1

**APPENDIX**

**TABLE C**

**INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES SUBJECT TO POLITICAL BALANCE**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Available Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
Overview & Scrutiny	15	10	4	1	0
Finance & Performance Scrutiny	15	10	4	1	0
Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny	15	10	4	1	0
Children & Young People Scrutiny	15	10	4	1	0
Health & Well-Being Scrutiny	15	10	4	1	0
Democratic Services	15	10	4	1	0
Audit	15	10	4	1	0

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**as amended by**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**COUNCIL**

**28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**REPORT**

**The Political Balance of the Council, Appointment of Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Allocation of Notices of Motion**

**Freestanding matter**